

Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2018

Certified by Lise Hamlin – April 4, 2018

On February 28, 2018, the fourth meeting of the second term of the DAC was opened by the DAC Co-Chairs Lise Hamlin of the Hearing Loss Association of America, and Sam Joehl of Level Access. The DAC Co-Chairs then requested a roll call of the members present. Welcoming remarks were given by Patrick Webre, Chief of the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. The date of June 14, 2018 was announced as the next DAC meeting date.

Next, Suzy Rosen Singleton, Chief of the Disability Rights Office (DRO), provided updates on DRO's recent activities, including updates on the hearing aid compatibility rules, Real Time Text (RTT) deployment, accessible video programming, and accessible emergency alerts and communication.

Eliot Greenwald, Deputy Chief of the DRO and Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) provided updates on the DRO's activities regarding TRS, including renewal of State TRS programs and updates on the TRS user registration database.

Thomas Wlodkowski of Comcast Cable, and Co-Chair of the Video Programming Subcommittee, read the subcommittee's recommendation to the DAC on best practices for the aural description for people who are blind or visually impaired of visual but non-textual emergency information provided by broadcasters, such as the critical details of an emergency conveyed by radar maps and other graphic displays. After discussion and a break to adjust the agenda, a motion was made and seconded to amend the recommendation. The motion failed. Another motion was made to vote on the recommendation as originally written. The motion was passed, and the recommendation was adopted by the DAC.

Next, the Federal Communications Commission Commissioner, Mignon Clyburn, addressed the DAC and thanked members for their participation. Commissioner Clyburn remarked on the importance of considering the implications of disability access in all of the FCC's rules from the beginning. The Commissioner also congratulated the States that have implemented Text-to-911. The Commissioner closed her remarks by thanking Elaine Gardner for her service to the Disability Advisory Committee.

After a break, Dr. Christian Vogler of Gallaudet Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, Ian Dillner and Zach Bastian of Verizon, and Susan Mazrui of AT&T all discussed their agencies research, implementation, and deployment of RTT.

Next, David Schmidt, FCC TRS Program Fund Coordinator, discussed FCC Research and Development Efforts on Communications Accessibility. Mr. Schmidt explained that the FCC has expanded its accessible communication research efforts by collaborating with research organizations beyond MITRE. Recent research efforts have included VRS interoperability, device testing of IP CTS, and usability testing.

Next, Elaine Gardner, Attorney Advisor at the Disability Rights Office and Designated Federal Officer of the Disability Advisory Committee, was celebrated by the committee for her years of service and her commitment to disability rights.

After a break for lunch that was sponsored by CTIA, Ron Bibler, Co-Chair of the Video Programming Subcommittee introduced Heather York of VITAC to read a report of the Captions and Audio Description Transmittal Working Group. The report explained that they are working to determine best industry practices to ensure various online platforms can receive and show closed captions and audio descriptions if that content is available from the content providers.

Next, Rochelle Garrow of the National Association for State Relay Administration, and Co-Chair of the Relay and Equipment Distribution Subcommittee, gave a report on the subcommittee's activities. The subcommittee has two workgroups. The VRS Metrics Workgroup has been working on an issues paper to determine the challenges VRS interpreters face. The IP CTS Metrics Workgroup is hearing from MITRE on a number of issues including phase three testing and protocols.

Susan Mazrui of AT&T, on behalf of the DAC Emergency Communications Subcommittee, gave a report on that subcommittee's activities. The Subcommittee is working on creating talking points and educational material regarding the benefits of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) adoption of RTT. Once that is finished, the subcommittee is planning a PSAP education day to showcase the benefits of RTT adoption.

Next, Zainab Alkebsi of the National Association of the Deaf, and Co-Chair of the Technology Transitions Subcommittee, gave a report on the subcommittee's activities. The subcommittee is planning a roundtable workshop on RTT Implementations with Refreshable Braille Displays and is planning to issue a recommendation for the June 2018 meeting of the DAC. The subcommittee is also working on crafting a recommendation, by the June 2018 meeting of the DAC, related to integration of RTT into relay services.

Following a break, a few of the DAC members gave updates about what their organizations are doing. Next, a call for new business was made. Helena Mitchell of Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center suggested that milestones are an excellent way to keep track of evolving technology issues. No further new business was raised. The meeting was then opened for public comment. The public comments included questions about the types of disabilities that are represented on the DAC, concerns about caption quality standards provided via speech-to-text technologies, and 25 comments asked about deaf prisoners' access to telecommunications.

Closing remarks were made by Elaine Gardner and the Co-Chairs, Lise Hamlin and Sam Joehl.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 PM.

Disability Advisory Committee Members in Attendance
February 28, 2018

Last Name	First Name	Organization Represented
Alkebsi	Zainab	National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
Bacon	Everette	National Federation of the Blind (NFB)
Bastien	Zach	Verizon
Berrier	Jerry	Perkins School for the Blind
Bibler	Ron	Consumer
Card	John	DISH Networks
Creagan	Tim	U.S. Access Board (<i>ex officio</i>)
Davert	Scott	Helen Keller National Center
Guinivan	Phyllis	Association of University Centers on Disability
Hamlin	Lise	Hearing Loss Association of America
Joehl	Sam	Level Access
Jones	Gay	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA (<i>ex officio</i>)
Kuhl	Stephanie	National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA)
Martinez	Eddie	TCS Associates
Mitchell	Helena	Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center
Walke	Larry	National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)
Kirby	Maria	Apple, Inc.
Rafi	Abe	The ARC
Gerst	Matt	CTIA - the Wireless Association
Scarpelli	Brian	ACT, the App Association
Stephens	Tony	American Council of the Blind
Stout	Claude	Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI)
Gebre	Mussie	Deaf Blind Citizens in Action
Mazrui	Susan	AT&T Services, Inc.
Vogler	Christian	Gallaudet RERC
Yunashko	Bryen	Consumer
Wlodkowski	Thomas	Comcast Cable
Nemeth	Rachel	CTA
Bibler	Ron	Consumer
Behm	Gary	RIT – NTID Center on Access Technology
Nygren	Maggie	American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Diaz	Maria	Dicapta

CGB Staff

Karen Peltz Strauss
Suzy Rosen Singleton
Eliot Greenwald
Elaine Gardner

Will Schell
Michael Scott
Sue Bahr
Robert McConnell
Theodore Marcus